Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously presented): A camera according to claim 8,

wherein one of the first optical filter and the second optical filter is a color filter and the other is a black-and-white filter, and

wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a color image during the day with a high image signal level, and the black-and-white filter is switched to obtain a black-and-white image at night with a low image signal level.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A camera according to claim 8 or 2, further comprising

detecting means which detects a level of the image signal output from the image pick-up element,

wherein the first optical filter and the second optical filter are automatically switched depending on the signal level thus detected.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of switching optical filters of a camera, said method comprising the steps of:

forming an image on an image pick-up element through a lens provided on a camera body;

converting the image into an electrical signal through the image pick-up element, thereby obtaining an image signal;

detecting a level of the image signal output from the image pick-up element ~~by detecting means~~; and

~~automatically switching between~~ selectively positioning one of a first optical filter and a second optical filter ~~through optical filter switching means provided on a~~ in front ~~surface~~ of the image pick-up element depending on the detected signal level ~~detected by the detecting means~~.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method of switching optical filters of a camera according to claim 4,

wherein one of the first optical filter and the second optical filter is a color filter and the other is a black-and-white filter, and

wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a color image during the day with a high image signal level, and the black-and-white filter is switched to obtain a black-and-white image at night with a low image signal level.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method of switching an optical filter of a camera according to claim 5, further comprising steps of:

when the first optical filter is switched into the second optical filter or the second optical filter is switched into the first optical filter, outputting character information indicating the switching, from display means to a monitor; and

displaying the character information together with an image shot by the camera, on a screen of the monitor.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method of switching optical filters of a camera, according to claim 6,

wherein character information indicating that a black-and-white image is displayed on the screen of the monitor, when said image shot by the camera is automatically switched from a color image to a black-and-white image after detecting an image pick-up environment.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A camera comprising:

a lens provided on a camera body;

an image pick-up element for converting an image is provided by the lens into an electrical image signal;

a first optical filter;

a second optical filter; and

optical filter switching mechanism for selectively positioning one of the first optical filter and the second optical filter in front of the image pick-up element based on a level of the image signal.